(b) the details of the funds granted to the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of the financial grants/assistance given to Maharashtra for constructing foodgrains storage godowns under The Centrally Sponsored Scheme are as under:—

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakh)	No. of Godowns	Capacity (in MTs)
1992-93	77.50	09	4,000
1993-94	19.98	02	1,000
1994-95	67.58	06	3,000
1995-96	41.10	04	2,442
TOTAL:	206.16	21	10,442

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for construction of godowns has been discontinued from April, 2002.

Cereal Procurement

†1640. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of Government purchase of cereals are made from Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the details of the quantity of Government purchase on support price from rest of the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 27 per cent of the total production of cereals are made in the aforesaid States; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) the total production of cereals in these four States ranged from 45% to 50% of the total production in the country during the years 1998-99 to 2002-03.

Sugar Production

1641. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar in 2003-04 is less when compared to 2002-03;

(b) if so, the production of sugar in 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(c) whether Government are thinking of allowing private sugar mills to import sugar from other countries to meet the domestic demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The production of sugar in 2002-03 and 2003-04 was 201.32 lakh tonnes and 139.58 (Provisional) lakh tonnes, respectively.

(c) and (d) Sugar is an O.G.L. (Open General License) item, inviting a tariff rate of 60% *ad valorem* and Rs.850/- PMT countervailing duty and can be imported by the trade as per their commercial prudence.